



CONGRESSMAN
**CHARLIE
MELANCON**

*Honoring Louisiana
Veterans and Supporting
Louisiana Troops.*

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

- George Washington



Congressman Charlie Melancon

is *honoring* Louisiana Veterans and *supporting* Louisiana Troops.

“As we celebrate the birth of the greatest country in world, we should reflect and remember the sacrifice that service men and women have made and continue to make for our Nation. It is a high honor and my duty as a Congressman to support those brave Americans who serve our country.”

- Congressman Charlie Melancon

Congressman Melancon is working to improve the Quality of Life for Troops and Military Families.



Congressman Melancon listens to concerns from Louisiana veterans.

- Supported giving troops a pay raise in both 2008 and 2009.
- Provided more than 185,000 service members and veterans with \$500 for every month they were forced to serve under stop-loss orders since 2001.
- Added 7,100 new claims processors at the Veterans Administration to address the backlog of 396,000 veterans' claims and the 177-day average wait for veterans to access earned benefits.
- Provided Family Medical Leave for families of soldiers wounded in combat.
- Reduced Military Family Tax on surviving spouses of soldiers.

Congressman Melancon is working in Congress to make overdue gains for America's Troops, Veterans, and Military Families.

★ Strengthening Health Care for Veterans

- Increased funding for veterans' health care and services by \$17.7 billion, more than a 40% boost since January 2007.
- Added 8,000 new doctors and nurses for veterans' medical care.
- Strengthened mental health services critical to the 620,000 returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injuries.
- Allowed modest income veterans to enroll in VA health care.
- Cleaned up the scandal of inadequate support for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital and VA facilities nationwide.
- Implemented a single, accurate paperless health record to smooth the transition from Armed Forces to VA system.

★ Expanding Economic Opportunity for Veterans and Military Families

- New GI Bill provides a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
- Gave businesses a \$ 2,400 tax credit for hiring unemployed veterans.
- Provided nearly 2 million disabled veterans with a \$ 250 Economic Recovery payment.
- Created a new Veterans Corps to provide services to veterans and military families.

★ Strengthening the American Military

- Provided troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with better equipment, including Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.
- Strengthened National Guard preparedness for disaster response.
- Created the Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund to rapidly address military equipment shortfalls.
- Ensured more equipment, training, and body armor for troops.



Congressman Melancon meets with veterans from Louisiana at the World War II Memorial in Washington DC to discuss veterans issues.

Congressman Charlie Melancon will continue to honor and support Louisiana's troops, veterans, and military families.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH
CONGRESSMAN MELANCON

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